

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RODE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN RODE MEMORIAL HALL
ON MONDAY 7th AUGUST 2023 AT 7.30 pm**

CONFIRMED

Present:

Cllr Mike Salmon (MS) – Chair, Cllr Ann Edney (AE), Cllr Pat Restorick (PR), Cllr Peter Travis (PT), Cllr Jim McAuliffe (JM), Cllr Jonathan Bowler (JB) and Cllr Moira Punt (MP)

In attendance: Hugh Williams – Clerk, Cllr Dawn Denton (County Councillor) and 1 parishioner.

1. Parishioners Participation: It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that there was danger the village speed watch group could fold as it was now down to 5 volunteers and the leader of the group was standing down at the end of the year. The meeting agreed that it would help in recruiting new members to this important group; and agreed to fund a door drop leaflet asking for volunteers. In connection to this a question was raised over the new automatic SIDs. In response it was reported that Gloucester police had completed its trial and Somerset and Avon were assessing the results and it was possible that the Police could take this on and fund it, therefore the PC was waiting for a decision before purchasing any automatic SIDs.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr A Pickett and Cllr A Boyden (County Councillor)

3. Approval of the minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th July were approved. An agreed amendment to the Parishioners section was agreed (see under minute 6i below) and this would be published in The Link as well.

4. Declarations of interest: None.

5. County Councillor's Report: Cllr Dawn Denton reported that she had obtained a contact at National Highways regarding the slip road onto the A36; however, with holidays she had not yet been able to progress.

The recent concerns raised by a resident at Church Farm regarding the access and exit from the site onto the A361 had been forwarded to Somerset, who had already agreed to improve the speed signage. It was agreed to ask Somerset if it could count the traffic on the A361, and whether HGVs could be separately counted as it was felt these had increased considerably.

6. Actions from previous meeting:

i. **The Mill:** A correction to the July minutes regarding the new license application was noted. The application to change the license had included the fact that they were applying to have the whole of the outdoor area, including the 'island' and car park, licensed; which would allow The Mill to have an unlimited number of outdoor events. This was because the limit of ten outdoor events proposed in the license variation request specifically excluded events within the licensed area. A hearing date for the license application had been set for 6th September and details of this would be circulated to all who had sent comments on the license application. There was some concern expressed that this was beyond the 20 working days limit and had probably been extended to give Butcombe time to defend the application. It was reported that Environmental Protection and the Police had submitted objections along with the Parish Council and a number of residents.

ii. **Hoedown:** Limited work had been done on the July Hoedown due to the rain. A further Hoedown was planned for 20th August (avoiding the Bank Holiday weekend). Work had started on repainting the phone box and the purchase of paint brushes was approved.

iii. **Defibrillator:** The Clerk reported that the new defibrillator had been installed and was now working. A new team of checkers had been set up to ensure it remained in working order.

It was agreed that an awareness training event should be carried out in the village either run by Frome Hospital or Community Heartbeat Trust and the Clerk agreed to progress this. The PC agreed to fund it.

It was also agreed that the PC would fund the formation of a VETS (Voluntary Emergency Telephone System) in the village following the awareness training. This system would form a group of people who could be alerted to take the defibrillator to a patient when needed.

iv. **Path from Barrow Farm to allotments:** Matthew Lucas had suddenly left the village and therefore the PC did not have anyone to continue keeping these paths clear. It was reported that the local footpath officers were keeping the paths clear, however, it was agreed that these paths required considerable work to keep fully open and that the PC should find someone to do this work.

v. **Church Lane and Clay Lane:** The footpath on Church Lane was very overgrown as was Clay Lane and although Somerset carried out an annual cut of Church Lane it was agreed the land owners should be approached to carry out a cut to keep these open. The narrowness of the Church Lane footpath was discussed as the undergrowth had encroached considerably over the years and Cllr Denton agreed to approach Somerset to see if anything could be done.

vi. **Dog bin near Playing Field:** The location suggested by the Playing Field Committee was considered unacceptable as it was next to the entrance of the path to the children's play area and under a no dog sign. A new location would be requested. (Clerk's Note: a new location on new post on the right by the entrance to the car park has been proposed.)

7. Climate Change Group: It was reported that there were now 85 subscribers to the Climate Change email group. JM reported that the key issue identified was to try and ensure Rode had some off-street electric car charging points; although no suitable location had been found. Other parish councils were still to be approached to see if they would help fund the cost of the Big Green Week.

8. Highways:

i. **20mph speed limit and village gates:** The Chair had spoken to Sara Davis (Somerset Highways) regarding the implementation of the 20mph limit within the village. He said that agreement had been reached to extend this to the far side of Crooked Lane. The current delay was regarding the village gates as Autograph Homes had said they were not going to fund these. The Parish Council agreed the TRO to implement the 20mph limit in the village should go ahead and that the village gate situation be resolved at a later date. The PC would review the gates agreed and consider the cost implications that might fall to the PC to proceed.

ii. **Bradford Road/Rode Hill crossroads:** A delay on installing the vehicle activated signs was due to equipment needing repair, this should be completed by 11th August and work restart after then.

iii. **Street Lights:** The Clerk reported that Cllr Boyden had, following discussions with Somerset, confirmed that on a street, lights had to be either all on or all off. The Clerk was waiting to hear from Somerset regarding revised street light lists he had sent in.

9. Planning:

i) New applications:

2023/1379/TCA: To pollard hornbeam to 10 feet – 33 High Street. No objections

2023/1403/TCA: To reduce gingko by 2-3m – Paviours Well Cottage, High Street. No objections

ii. Somerset decisions:

2023/1015/HSE: Erection of single store rear extension – 1 Fairfield. Approved

iii. Other:

- i. The Planning Inspectorate had rejected the application to build four dwellings at the rear of The Bell. There was continued concern over the state of The Bell which appeared to be left to fall into disrepair. Questions were raised whether Somerset had any powers to ensure this listed building did not deteriorate further.
- ii. The unauthorised development of the building in the grounds of The Coach House on Rode Hill was raised as no retrospective planning application had been submitted. Cllr Denton agreed to contact Enforcement at Somerset. (Clerk's Note: Somerset have sent a breach of Planning Letter to the owners)

10. Buses: A new timetable for the bus services should come out in September. PT reported that possibly a few D2 services could be reallocated to the D2X which do not come through Rode. Somerset are expected to continue to fund the evening D2 services.

11. Website: JM reported he had been uploading a large amount of the history of Rode material from the current site to the new site as well as amending photos etc. A link had been circulated to all members of the PC and he requested feedback. He had also approached most of the local groups (all had shown interest) for them to populate areas on the new website. It was possible the website could go live in September. The meeting thanked him for his work on the website.

12. Solar Farm: The application had still to be submitted. The triangular field on the Braford Road had been taken off the application but another field added on the far side of the A361. A Teams meeting was planned for 17th August for an update for the PC.

13. Financial matters:

Payments: The following payments were agreed:

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| Matthew Lucas (grass cutting) | £24.00 |
| Eagle Grounds Maintenance | £990.00 |
| Clerk Salary | £241.85 |
| HMRC PAYE | £60.40 |
| J Bowler (paint brushes) | £44.55 |

14. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at the Memorial Hall on:

Monday 11th September at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed

Date

Print

Website: rodevillage.com/parish-council